

PAR AND BOGEY

by

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HAS golf gone on a double standard? With respect to "par" and "bogey," the 1957 Rules of Golf booklet indicates that it has.

What is "bogey?" One of the most widely misapplied and misunderstood terms in golf, "bogey" has been often erroneously thought of as a score of one over par. But now, for the first time, the USGA has officially defined "bogey." Here are the new definitions of "bogey" and "par" in the 1957 Rules of Golf booklet:

"*Par*" is the score that an expert golfer would be expected to make for a given hole.

"*Bogey*" is the score that a moderately good golfer would be expected to make for a given hole. Bogey is the same as par except when the committee declares it to be one over par because of the difficulty of a particular hole.

Par and bogey mean errorless play without flukes and under ordinary weather conditions, allowing two strokes on the putting green.

Yardages for guidance in computing par and bogey are given below. They are not arbitrary, because allowance should be made for the configuration of the ground, any difficult or unusual conditions, and the severity of the hazards.

YARDAGES FOR GUIDANCE

| Score | Men's | Men's | Women's |
|-------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Par | Bogey | Par |
| 3 | up to 250 | up to 190 | up to 210 |
| 4 | 251 to 470 | 191 to 370 | 211 to 400 |
| 5 | 471 and over | 371 to 540 | 401 to 575 |
| 6 | | 541 and over | 576 and over |

Each hole should be measured horizontally from the middle of the tee area to be used to the center of the green, following the line of play planned by the architect in laying out the hole. Thus, in a hole with a bend, the line at

the elbow point should be centered in the fairway in accordance with the architect's intention.

Adoption of bogey is designed to give the great body of golfers a more realistic target than par toward which to direct their golfing efforts. Par is beyond the reach of most players; bogey now is more nearly within range.

The 1957 Rules remain unchanged from those in 1956. In the USGA Appendix, however, there are revisions in the statements of USGA policy dealing with "preferred lies" and "winter rules". Although the USGA does not endorse "preferred lies" and "winter rules," it is recognized that extreme conditions may necessitate their use. An appropriate local rule is suggested, although the USGA will not endorse or interpret it.

Henceforth, scores made under a local rule for "preferred lies" or "winter rules" may be accepted for handicapping if the committee considers that conditions warrant.

When such a local rule is adopted, the committee should insure that the course's normal scoring difficulty is maintained as nearly as possible through adjustment of tee markers and related methods. However, if extreme conditions cause extended use of "preferred lies" or "winter rules" and the course management cannot adjust scoring difficulty properly, the club should obtain a Temporary Course Rating from its district golf association.

Copies of the 1957 Rules of Golf Book are now available and may be ordered through the United States Golf Association, 40 East 38th Street, New York 16, N. Y. The standard edition, in handy pocket size, is 25 cents per copy. Bulk orders of more than 500 copies are available at reduced prices.